

Mr. Speaker, Linda has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this outstanding accomplishment, and in wishing her nothing but the best in her retirement.

**SUPERINTENDENT KAMELA  
PATTON**

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Collier County Superintendent Kamela Patton for being awarded the "2017 Superintendent of the Year" by the Consortium of Florida Education Foundation.

Throughout her seven-year tenure, Patton's Administration has hosted numerous financial aid nights to assist students and families navigate the complex student financial aid process. Beyond her dedication to provide career based support for students, Superintendent Patton demonstrated strong leadership during Hurricane Irma, which directly affected Collier County. The school district opened 28 schools to serve as shelters for thousands of people who were impacted by Hurricane Irma.

I applaud Superintendent Patton for her dedication to educate our youth. We are proud of her achievements as she is the first superintendent from Southwest Florida to be honored with the award, in its 11th year of launch. I thank her for her commitment to our community and her years of service.

**TRIBUTE TO RENÉE D. MARTINEZ**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor René D. Martinez, who is retiring as President of Los Angeles Community College.

A Los Angeles native, Ms. Martinez received her Associate of Arts degree from Mount Saint Mary's College and a bachelor's degree in child development from the California State University Los Angeles. Upon receiving her master's degree in child development from the University of San Francisco, she began her over forty-year career in education with the Los Angeles Unified School District, working as a teacher, consultant and director, while also teaching part-time at East Los Angeles College (ELAC). In 1975, she became a full-time faculty member of ELAC's Child Development Department, and later served as the Department Chair. René went on to hold various other administrative and managerial positions at ELAC such as Vocational Dean, Evening Dean, and Director of Student Activities. In 2001, she assumed the role of Vice President of Workforce Education and Economic Development, where she fostered valuable connections with the business community for the purpose of assisting students in their employment and educational efforts.

In 2012, Ms. Martinez was appointed Interim President of Los Angeles City College (LACC). The following year, she became the college's 16th President and was recognized as the first Latina to be President in LACC's ninety-year history. During her successful tenure, she was responsible for managing all college departments, faculty and staff and overseeing student support services, student achievement and the college budget. René ably upheld the goals and values set forth by the Los Angeles Community College District by fostering a creative and inclusive learning and working environment for all students, staff and faculty members, and emphasizing the importance of assisting students in need.

An exemplary leader, René D. Martinez has been an invaluable asset in the field of education and has left a legacy that will be preserved and enjoyed by generations to come. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking René D. Martinez for over four decades of distinguished service to the academic community of the greater Los Angeles region.

**RECOGNIZING MICHAEL FISS**

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Michael Fiss, a longtime Syracuse radio host who recently retired after 40 years on the airwaves.

Mike Fiss, known by our community as "Big Mike," started his radio career in 1979 at a local Syracuse radio station, WSYR-FM. Since that time, he has had the number one-rated morning show on Y94FM for many years, and most recently hosted the morning show on Sunny 102 for the past 16 years.

Throughout his career, Fiss has been a supporter of local musicians and has worked to help the less fortunate in Central New York. Every November, Sunny 102 famously switches from its regular programming to all-Christmas music and "Big Mike's Christmastime in Syracuse" CDs have been sold locally to benefit charities in our area. Fiss' listeners have joyfully anticipated his annual live Christmas broadcast which highlights performances of our favorite holiday songs from local Syracuse artists.

For his tremendous efforts to make us laugh every morning, while continuously working to make our community a better place, I am proud to congratulate Michael Fiss on his illustrious career and much deserved retirement.

**RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN R.  
HOLT**

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Dr. Stephen R. Holt for his service to the veterans of the Tenth District as director of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center for the past three years.

Since 2014, Dr. Holt has led the only Federal Health Care Center in the country, operating as an integrated medical facility for both the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, with the end goal of better serving our current and former service members.

Dr. Holt and the extraordinary team at the Lovell FHCC in North Chicago are responsible for the care of nearly 20,000 Veterans, 60,000 Active Duty and their dependents and 10,000 other Tricare beneficiaries within our communities. This includes overseeing the medical readiness of more than 40,000 naval recruits who pass through Naval Station Great Lakes annually.

Under his leadership, Lovell FHCC advanced from a three to a four-star rating by the Veterans Administration, and his integrity and dedication has fostered an enhanced atmosphere of caring and service between staff and patients.

Prior to his time at Lovell FHCC, Dr. Holt was responsible for oversight and delivery of quality medical care across 10 hospitals in the VA Southeast Network.

Dr. Holt is a Veteran of the Air Force, where he spent 21 years as a Medical Officer in field and central command locations, retiring at the rank of Colonel.

I thank Dr. Holt for his service to our nation and to the veterans and servicemembers in our community, and I offer him and his family best wishes for their future endeavors.

**IN RECOGNITION OF GREENVILLE  
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S  
STATUS AS A 2017 BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL**

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greenville Junior-Senior High School in Greenville, Pennsylvania which was recently honored by the Department of Education as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. This award, given to only 342 schools in America this year, is based on a school's overall academic performance as well as its progress in closing achievement gaps among its students.

In her message of congratulations, Secretary DeVos commended the "visionaries, innovators and leaders" who are "preparing every child for a bright future." I am proud to join her in congratulating the teachers and administrators of Greenville, as well as the families of these students for the love and support they provide. Most of all, I congratulate the students themselves for a job well done. They are truly a credit to Pennsylvania's Third District, and to our country. It is an honor to represent them in the People's House.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. STEVE SCALISE**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would

have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 644; YEA on Roll Call No. 645; NAY on Roll Call No. 646; NAY on Roll Call No. 647; YEA on Roll Call No. 648; and YEA on Roll Call No. 649.

TRIBUTE TO BETHEL AND RONALD LAMB

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Bethel and Ronald Lamb of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 28, 2017.

Bethel and Ronald's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together, and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

JIM AND PAULETTE STUART TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Paulette Stuart and Mr. Jim Stuart for their work in planning and hosting the National Medal of Honor Society Convention in Pueblo, Colorado.

In 1993, the 103rd Congress of the United States designated Pueblo, Colorado as the Home of Heroes, as it is the home of four recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Since then Jim and Paulette have dedicated much of their time to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Both worked tirelessly hosting the National Medal of Honor Society Convention this year in Pueblo, Colorado from September 12 to 16, 2017. This was the second time the National Medal of Honor Society Convention was held in Pueblo, Colorado (September 2000) thanks to Jim and Paulette's efforts.

Jim was born, raised and educated in Pueblo, Colorado. He became an entrepreneur starting Sangray Corporation, which marketed and sold finished ceramic gift products. He retired after running the business for 30 years, and now serves on numerous commissions and non-profit boards. Paulette started her career in Pueblo with the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce where she served as Vice President of the Conventions and Visitors Council. Later, she retired from the Pueblo Chieftain newspaper as Promotions Manager, and now is an advertising and marketing consultant and community volunteer, donating her time with non-profits and civic organizations. For their

dedication and commitment to the Pueblo community, they have been inducted into the Pueblo Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Paulette and Jim Stuart continue to be advocates for the Medal Of Honor Society, the Pueblo Home of Heroes Association, and veterans across the nation. I'm proud to recognize these engaged civic leaders and valued members of the community for their work on behalf of our heroes and for promoting the City of Pueblo and its wonderful attributes.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAUREL JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S STATUS AS A 2017 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Laurel Junior-Senior High School in New Castle, Pennsylvania, which was recently honored by the Department of Education as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School. This award, given to only 342 schools in America this year, is based on a school's overall academic performance as well as its progress in closing achievement gaps among its students.

In her message of congratulations, Secretary DeVos commended the "visionaries, innovators and leaders" who are "preparing every child for a bright future." I am proud to join her in congratulating the teachers and administrators of Laurel, as well as the families of these students for the love and support they provide. Most of all, I congratulate the students themselves for a job well done. They are truly a credit to Pennsylvania's Third District, and to our country. It is an honor to represent them in the People's House.

TRIBUTE TO VELVA AND ELDON COLE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Velva and Eldon Cole of Winterset, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married at the Methodist Church in Macksburg, Iowa on October 1, 1967.

Velva and Eldon's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but the best.

CONGRATULATING GARY BEASLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM NEIGHBORS OF WATERTOWN

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gary Beasley on his retirement from Neighbors of Watertown.

Neighbors of Watertown is a not-for-profit organization that works to create affordable housing for low-income residents and renovate blighted properties so they can be put to productive use. Mr. Beasley has proudly served his community as CEO for the past 38 years. Through his dedicated leadership, Mr. Beasley has played an instrumental role in revitalizing the Watertown community.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to thank Mr. Beasley for his years of hard work and dedication to his community, and wish him all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF CARL HOLMES

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, our nation's fire and emergency services lost an extraordinary leader on Thanksgiving Day. Retired Fire Chief Carl Holmes passed away unexpectedly in Dallas, Texas with his family by his side.

Chief Holmes was a ground breaker, a man of strong convictions who paved the way for African American firefighters to climb the leadership ladder in fire departments across the nation. A veteran of the Oklahoma City Fire Department, Chief Holmes began his career during a time when few opportunities were afforded in the fire service to African Americans. He achieved his ascent to leadership positions by training harder and working longer, a lesson he instilled in others who wanted to follow his path. In 1978, following 27 years of grit and determination, he became the city's first African American Assistant Fire Chief.

In 2016, Chief Holmes was awarded the Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award at the 28th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner in Washington, DC. He was honored for an incredible career that spanned over 65 years . . . a career that left a profound impact on firefighters of different ethnicities and regions of the country, both career and volunteer. I had the honor of attending the dinner program and witnessing the presentation of the award to Chief Holmes. It was a special event that brought 1,500 national fire service leaders to their feet to pay tribute to a man of incredible courage and character. Chief Holmes was a leader who literally changed the complexion of the fire service as we know it today.

Chief Holmes was a very special person and the consummate fire service professional. He inspired people and demanded the best from them. But more importantly, he taught others about life and what is most important to us all: family and friends. He leaves behind a loving wife, Marvella, and daughter, Carla and